

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 13 has been amended to clarify that the two axially spaced spur gears are fitted to a common spindle that is rotatively journalled relative to the planet wheel carrier via a needle bearing, as well as to recite that one of the two axially spaced spur gears is rigidly secured to the common spindle, and the other one of the two axially spaced spur gears is supported on the common spindle via a wringing fit for self alignment with the rigidly secured spur gear, thereby evenly sharing a load between the two axially spaced spur gears. See, for example, the disclosure in the specification at page 3, lines 18-33.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 13 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 4,286,458 ("Alexander") and USP 3,245,279 ("Baker"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13, each of the planet wheel units of at least one of the planetary gearing stages comprises two axially spaced spur gears fitted to a common spindle that is rotatively journalled relative to the planet wheel carrier via a needle bearing.

In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 13, one of the two axially spaced spur gears is rigidly secured to the common spindle, and the other one of the two axially spaced spur gears is supported on the common spindle via a wringing fit for self alignment with the rigidly secured spur gear, thereby evenly sharing a load between the two axially spaced spur gears.

With this structure of the claimed present invention, an even load sharing is achieved between the two spur gears, and overload on one of the spur gears can be readily avoided. In addition, the even load sharing between the two spur gears achieves an additional advantage whereby the size of the spur gears can be reduced while maintaining a high torque capacity, thereby reducing the size of the reduction gearing as a whole and consequently the size of the hand-held power nut runner.

It is respectfully submitted that Alexander and Baker, taken singly or in combination, fail to achieve or render obvious the above described structure and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Alexander fails to teach the feature of the two axially spaced spur gears of the claimed present invention. For this reason, the Examiner has relied upon Baker to supply the missing teachings of Alexander. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the pinion gears 24 and 25 of Baker correspond to the two axially spaced spur gears of the claimed present invention.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Baker merely teaches at column 3, lines 47-48 thereof that "[t]he pinion gears 24 and 25 are mounted on the hub or shaft 26a." That is, Baker merely discloses that the pinion gears 24 and 25 are "mounted on" the shaft 26a.

It is respectfully submitted, however, Baker does not disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13 whereby one of the two axially spaced spur gears is rigidly secured to the common spindle, and the other one of the two axially spaced spur gears is supported on the common spindle via a wringing fit for self alignment with the rigidly secured spur gear.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Baker were combinable with Alexander in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination would still fail to achieve or render obvious the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 13 and claims 14-16 depending therefrom clearly patentably distinguishes over Alexander and Baker, taken singly or in combination consistent with the respective fair teachings thereof, under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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